

**SECRET**

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

[Redacted]

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24 NOV 1975

Lieutenant General Lew Allen, Jr., USAF  
Director, National Security Agency  
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

Dear Lew:

I appreciate receiving your letter and "thinkpiece" proposing new central management arrangements for SIGINT activities now conducted by CIA. As you are aware, this matter is the subject of a new CIA study as well as on-going investigation by the House Appropriations Committee investigative staff. Also, mutual arrangements for the conduct of covert intercept activities are the subject of discussions among NSA and CIA officers under chairmanship of the IC Staff.

While I would be happy to discuss this subject with you, I believe it would be preferable to let the current actions proceed to a more definitive point before we meet. As this process moves along, I will respond in a more specific way to the points you have raised. In the meantime, I will pass your paper to the staff officers engaged in the problem for use in their deliberations.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby

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21 NOV 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Director, NSA's Proposals Regarding  
Central Management of CIA SIGINT Activities

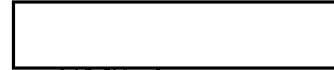
1. General Allen's letter and "thinkpiece" on the subject of restructuring under NSA leadership the management of CIA SIGINT activities was triggered by several current developments including OMB and Mahon Committee recommendations, the on-going discussions of covert intercept management, and knowledge of the in-house CIA study on SIGINT activities. Although the NSA proposals offer little new from the standpoint of management initiatives, the paper does serve to summarize in one document the long-held NSA perception of management structures which, in their view, could accommodate the full range of SIGINT activities currently being performed by CIA.

*Yes*  
2. In his letter, General Allen offers to discuss his thoughts further with you at your convenience. However, in view of on-going staff level discussions among IC Staff, NSA, and CIA, the investigation by the House Appropriations Committee staff, I suggest that a meeting between you and General Allen on this subject would not serve a useful purpose at this time. When the staff level discussions reach a more definitive point on areas of agreement and non-agreement, it might be useful to schedule such a meeting. Moreover, there are indications that OMB has decided not to press the issue of CIA SIGINT activities in formulation of the FY 77 budget.

*NO*  
3. It also occurs to me that the organization and management study of the intelligence community called for by Brent Scowcroft on 14 November may include some aspects of this problem, particularly since OMB will be chairing that study. It would not be my intent to raise this particular subject as a part of that study, but OMB, who is aware of on-going discussions, may do so.

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4. Therefore, I recommend you sign the proposed reply to General Allen acknowledging his letter and affirming your interest in continuing the discussions toward a mutually agreeable solution.



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Samuel V. Wilson  
Lieutenant General, USA  
D/DCI/IC

Attachment:  
Suggested Reply

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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

19 November 1975

NOTE FOR GENERAL WILSON

The attached memo to the DCI for your signature comments on the letter and paper from Lew Allen and notes the several other actions currently under way in the community relative to examining CIA SIGINT activities and possible management restructuring. As noted, the NSA paper does not make any new proposals but is a good summary statement of the NSA position.

The proposed letter for the DCI to send to Lew acknowledges the paper but defers further discussion until the other actions reach a more definitive point.

These papers were coordinated in draft with Jack Iams, [redacted], Hank Knoche, and [redacted]

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